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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

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SUBJECT: "Houses the Farm Families Want"--Information from the Bureau of
Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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If your travels take you across the country during the next few years... you'll be seeing greatly improved farm homes. Farm families--like their city cousins--plan to spend part of their war savings to get--as one farm woman describes it--"some of the things we have always wanted."

Already merchants and furniture dealers everywhere are reporting the purchase of cooking utensils, dishes, linoleum, chairs, beds and other basic pieces of furniture. As their earnings increased during the war...low-income farm families also spent money to make their houses more comfortable.

But most of the improvements are in the future. You can get a good picture of the plans from a survey made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This survey covered 71 counties scattered throughout the United States. The farm families say they want a modern home that's convenient and comfortable.

In most cases--they want to repair and modernize the house they now live in rather than build a new one.

In the Middle West...well-to-do farmers hope to have homes as modern as their city cousins'. Central heat...telephone...all-weather road right to the door...electrification and plumbing.

In California's Imperial Valley...some farm families hope to air-condition their homes.

The expansion of rural electrification will make it much easier to modernize the homes on many farms in this country. And the typical farm family has set aside money for electrical appliances.

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Have you ever wondered what you would buy first if you were putting electricity in your home? A refrigerator heads the list in this survey. Next comes a washing machine. An iron, radio, deep freezer unit, a brooder, a churn are also on many lists.

A few big farm operators are also making plans either to build new tenant houses or to modernize and repair the tenant houses already built. They believe good houses will attract the farm labor they want.

Already...in the Cotton Belt...many planters have put red or brown composition brick siding on unpainted tenant houses.

On the West Coast--farm-labor families are using their war savings to buy a home. They are investing in lots in farm-labor community settlements. Then they are building small houses as they have the money and time to work on them.

Not only are the farm families of America improving their homes. They are also building accommodations so that their city cousins can visit the farms. The survey reports many farm families are building tourist cabins. It mentions one in Western North Carolina--one in Tennessee--three in New England--one in Florida--and two in Southern California.

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